

EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Meeting of November 4, 2009

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center
3300 Briggs Chaney Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

Members Present: Bill Strassberger (Chair); Marva Deskins (Vice Chair); Anthony Ramirez (Secretary); Eric G. Luedtke (Parliamentarian); Thomas J. Aylward; Kim Bobola, Ph.D.; Amjad M. Chaudhry, G. Stanley Doore; David M. Kochanski, Esq.; Peter Myo Khin; Allan Mulligan; Dwayne H. Parris; Odessa Shannon; Saschane M. Stephenson; Benoy Thomas.

Members Absent: Vanessa E. Ali; Alfreda H. Payne, Ph.D.

Staff: Joy Nurmi, (Director, Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center) and Anjoo Chohda (SEAA, Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center)

Guests: Tom Street (Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Montgomery County); Harry S. Montgomery (spouse of Delegate Karen S. Montgomery; District 14, Montgomery County); Roylene Roberts (Chief, Neighborhood Revitalization, Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs); Mark Pharaoh (ECRAB); Bob Sylvester (Valley Stream Homeowners); Pam Saul (Staff, Sen. Rona Kramer; District 14, Montgomery County); Barbara Foresti (White Oak Master Plan); Kristin O'Connor (Senior Planner, M-NCPPC); Frank Carouso (GLCA); Jeanette Der Bedrosian (Gazette reporter); Andrew J. Winter (Principal, Greencastle Elementary School); Alexis Reed (Staff, District 4 Councilmember Nancy Navarro's office); Mara Parker (Staff, Councilmember Marc Elrich's office); Teddy Wu (Resident); Ksenija Janjio (University of Maryland); Pamela Lindstrom (Housing Opportunities Commission Board Member)

Chair Strassberger welcomed everyone to the board.

Citizen's Forum: Asked the guests to introduce themselves and share their concerns with the board. The floor was opened for questions.

Guests – gave a brief introduction.

Mark Pharaoh – the Halloween Party at the Marilyn J. Praisner Recreation Center was full house. They ran out of bags after distributing 500 bags. The Recreation department is expecting 8% to 10% budget cuts.

Frank Carouso – update on Greencastle Lakes issues. Frank has been working with Chuck Crisostomo, Asst. Director of the Center and is expecting feedback on the timeline for the stump removal for the 50+ dead trees which were recently removed by the County.

Speaker- Tom Street, Montgomery County, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer - shared a letter with the Board urging the County Council to support County Executive Ike Leggett's package of "Quality of Life" Code Enforcement reforms now before the Council. There are three pieces of legislation pending before the County Council's Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee. On October 6th, the County Council approved the County

Executive's Bill 23-09 which would limit the storage of inoperable, unused and unregistered vehicles in residential neighborhoods to 30 days. But progress has stalled on ZTA 09-03, which is designed to further restrict the encroachment and expansion of home occupations into residential neighborhoods, as well as limiting the paving of front yards and prohibiting the parking of heavy commercial vehicles in residential zones. The PHED Committee is recommending approval of the ZTA but with one big change. Their amended version would specifically allow small tow trucks to park in residential neighborhoods. The County Executive opposes this change. All three bills will help protect the quality of life in Montgomery County. The time is to act now. Tom Street urged the board to bring ZTA 09-03, Bill 24-09, and Bill 22-09 to the full Council for action at the earliest.

The floor was opened for suggestions, questions and answers.

Chair Strassberger – The Board will consider the matter at New Business.

Pamela Lindstrom – gave a brief introduction. She has been a civic activist in Gaithersburg area. The Gaithersburg Master Plan is a countywide issue. She urged the board to support the environmental impact and socio-economic impact of the Gaithersburg West Master Plan and communicate its concerns to the County Council. This Master Plan proposes to develop 600-800 acres in the southwest corner of Gaithersburg. The plan proposes to create between 40,000 and 60,000 new jobs. In contrast, downtown Bethesda has 30,000 jobs. The proposed East County Bio-tech complex projects creating about 30,000 jobs. While the Gaithersburg West plan may bring many jobs to Gaithersburg it is not good for East County. Ms Lindstrom urged the Board to communicate its concerns directly with the County Council.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

Chair Strassberger – welcomed Ms. Roylene Roberts, Department of Housing and Community Affairs who will update the board on Burtonsville Revitalization.

1. Speaker- Roylene Roberts (Chief, Neighborhood Revitalization, Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs, DHCA)

Over the last few months we have reviewed our efforts in the Burtonsville area. The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) MD Route 198 improvements will not be designed or constructed until after 2015. We recognize the need to stabilize the current business activity along MD Route 198, now.

The CIP for FY10 provides some limited funding. This fiscal year the department expects to

- Conduct individual pedestrian lighting surveys and CPTED analysis with property owners. (Joy Patil, MCPD has agreed to attend your January meeting to highlight CPTED principals. DHCA will be hosting a meeting for the six property owners of this project phase. We expect to hold the meeting in December.)
- Complete a streetface design and analysis parking opportunities and challenges. (This project will be completed by a consultant)
- Work with individual property owners on façade designs.

These three projects are the basic components to implement one of the key short term recommendations of the Burtonsville Community Legacy Plan. As you may recall the Community Legacy Plan was developed with your assistance and input.

The short term recommendations which relate to this project were to “Redesign the Public and Private Space along MD Route 198” and “Transportation and Parking”.

The department submitted a Community Legacy application in July 2009 to fund two projects;

- Develop and implement façade design concepts and standards for the commercial core businesses along MD Route 198.
- Develop & implement gateway identification signage to boost the community’s sense of place and design & install greenscape enhancement to act as buffers between pedestrians and traffic.

DHCA is speaking with other department heads, including the Department of Economic Development and Department of Transportation regarding funding for Burtonsville projects. After the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget is released in January, DHCA will have a clearer picture of the potential funding for the project. Roylene proposed to give an updated presentation to the board with Joy Patil, 3rd District, Department of Police in February 2010.

A question and answer session followed with the board members.

Chair Strassberger thanked Roylene Roberts for the presentation.

Approval of Minutes:

Chair Strassberger asked for a review of the minutes of the ECCAB Meeting of October 7th 2009.

[November 4, 2009 - 1] A motion was made to approve the minutes of October 7, 2009. The motion was moved by Eric G. Luedtke and seconded by Tom Aylward and unanimously approved.

Director’s Report – Joy Nurmi

The Director’s report and attachments were emailed to the board.

Joy Nurmi highlighted the following items:

1. IDA Sector Meeting – had a good turnout and was very successful. The next IDA sector meeting is scheduled on January 21st at 9:30 a.m. at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center.
2. Community Services Day – had a very good turnout. Over 200 bags were decorated and filled with donated toiletries, toys and school supplies by volunteers – (residents and children) for the victims of domestic violence. The bags were dropped off by the Center at the Betty Ann Krahnke Center for New Beginnings.
3. Ethics and Open Meeting for Boards & Commissions and members has been emailed to the members. The meeting is scheduled on January 20th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Executive Office Building in Rockville, Maryland. Joy encourages new members to definitely attend the training. The training will be a refresher course for existing members. An email reminder will

be sent in early January 2010.

4. A dialogue with the faith community to combat poverty is being sponsored by the County Executive and Offices of Community Partnerships on November 22nd, 2009 at the Green Ridge Baptist Church in Clarksburg. Will email the details to members.
5. EZ Storage – plans to hold a community meeting on November 16th (location TBD) to inform the community about their site plan which has been submitted with the Maryland Park and Planning Commission. The Board is invited to attend. Joy will email the details to the Board.

Announcements emailed to the board:

**Ethics and Open Meetings Act Training for Boards, Committees, and Commissions,
Wednesday, January 20, 2010 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM EOB Lobby Auditorium**

ZTA 09-05 Burtonsville Overlay Zone – The ZTA passed the Council unanimously last Tuesday with a provision that will grandfather in the EZ Storage proposal for a self-storage facility in Burtonsville. The ZTA as passed also prohibits the following uses in the Burtonsville Employment Overlay zone: Adult entertainment businesses; agricultural uses; aircraft parts, sales and services, highway fuel and food service; off-loading and transfer sites for storage of sand, gravel or rocks; parking of motor vehicle, off-street, in connection with any use permitted in a commercial zone; recycling facility; rifle or pistol ranges, indoor; warehousing and storage services (industrial and commercial users and self-storage facilities); stockyards; **outdoor storage**; and, trucking terminals.

IDA Sector meeting - Nearly 30 members of our community turned out for the first IDA Sector meeting on October 22 here at the Eastern County Regional Services Center. The goal of these gatherings is to bring the County's public safety agencies together with Castle Boulevard/Briggs Chaney area residents, apartment managers, business owners, and school officials to pursue strategies to make our community safer. IDA Sector is the police call sign for the area that includes the Castle Boulevard/Briggs Chaney area.

Lt. Steve D'Ovidio, the assistant commander of the Third District police station, reported that most IDA sector crimes are down considerably, including robberies, assaults and stolen vehicles. Vehicle thefts are up by 13%. He believes that the police have arrested the person responsible for a recent series of burglaries in the Briggs Chaney area.

Apartment and business owners also learned from Lt. D'Ovidio that they should be on the lookout for individuals impersonating maintenance staff and using a work truck and ladder to access apartment complexes through rooftop hatches, which appear to have been left unlocked.

Lt. D'Ovidio urged apartment managers to designate Montgomery County Police to act as agents on their properties. This allows police to issue trespass orders to non-residents who are not wanted on the property. Four apartment complexes have already signed up with police.

Park Police were also on hand, and Chief Darien Manley explained their roles and duties. They are comprised of 80 officers who cover all parks countywide on a 24/7 basis. Their primary jurisdiction is within the county parks, although they may respond to crimes outside of the parks as needed. The next meeting is January 21 at 9:30 a.m.

MD 650 and Quaint Acres Drive Stoplight – State Highway Administration (SHA) has responded to the County’s request for a stoplight at this location (copy of the SHA letter is attached). SHA has agreed in principle with the findings of the signal study, which calls for a signal at this site. However, SHA has asked the County to conduct another study to include a potential median closure at the MD 650 at Milestone Drive intersection (except for emergency vehicles). The County does not support doing the additional study and feels that the signal is justified and will be responding to SHA shortly. I will provide a copy of the response as soon as it is available.

Community Service Day – More than 40 volunteers, including several ECCAB members, turned out to join their friends and neighbors at the Eastern Montgomery County Regional Center’s Community Service Day on October 24th. Because October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month we at the Center thought it would be the perfect opportunity to merge two worthy efforts. Student volunteers, along with their parents, teachers and other community members created gift bags filled with needed items for victims of domestic violence and their children who find themselves at the Betty Ann Krahnke Center for New Beginnings, a domestic violence shelter operated by Montgomery County.

Volunteers created and filled 200 gift bags for women with soap, washcloths, shampoo, lotions and other toiletries, and bags for children with coloring books, crayons, puzzles, spiral notebooks, stuffed animals and small toys. Although the items in the gift bags are small, they go a long way in helping the women, and their children, who are in the shelter, feel more at home.

Please see the attached Gazette articles about the IDA Sector meeting and ezStorage

Chair’s Report – Bill Strassberger

Asked Committees to share the next week’s meeting dates and location since the Center will closed in observance of Veterans Day.

Under New Business – two letters for consideration will be discussed (a) “Quality of Life” Code Enforcement reforms and (b) Proposal for holding Art Show.

Martin Luther King Day – asked board for their support. Various activities such as greeting card preparation, decorating, story telling on Martin Luther King and exciting children’s activities were conducted at the last MLK day held at the Center.

Council’s Report:

Mara Parker, from Councilmember Marc Elrich’s Office

Code Enforcement reform – Council member Marc Elrich is on the PHED Committee. He encourages the Board members to write a letter to. Phil Andrews, President, County Council, and to Council member Mike Knapp in support of the County Executive’s version of the Code Enforcement plan.

Council’s Growth Policy – was discussed at Council on November 3, 2009. The Council has come to a compromise on the transportation issue. Transportation – did not change the level of service at intersections as proposed by the Planning Board. Council’s adopted plan encourages people to use transit. Councilmember Mark Elrich has proposed a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) plan.

Bill 35-09 would allow drug forfeiture funds to be used for drug treatment and prevention programs.

There is a decrease in the County's crime rate.

Alexis Reed, Councilmember Nancy Navarro

No report. She is filling in for Dolly Kildee, Staff of Councilmember Nancy Navarro's office.

Committee Reports –

Services Committee: Anthony Ramirez, Chair

The committee met last month regarding Community Services Day. It was a good turnout. Thanked Joy Nurmi who has been sending the board updates on H1N1 vaccination clinics. IDA Sector Meeting – happy to learn about Police involvement and hoping that the group is expanded.

Stuart Rochester – waiting for feedback on the ideas that were emailed to the ECCAB members to honor Stuart Rochester's commitment to East County.

Next week committee meeting date and time will be emailed.

Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee: Tom Aylward

The committee discussed on ZTA, EZ Storage and Burtonsville Legacy Plan.

Outreach Committee: Amjad M. Chaudhry

The committee proposes to hold an Art Show. The proposed date is Saturday, April 17, 2010; 2:00 p.m. -4:00 p.m. (tentative time) at the East County Community Recreation Center. The middle school students of East County will participate. The Art Show proposal was emailed to members for their review and sharing their thoughts.

Marva Deskins added that the committee reached out to the art teachers of the East County middle schools to request student participation. The date does not conflict with the school calendar.

Chair Strassberger – asked the committee to come forth with a plan.

Old Business:

Peter Myo Khin – asked if the Board could review the recommendations in the White Oak Master Plan to see the status of implementation, especially in the Colesville Sector. The Pedestrian crossover between the Shopping Center, need to know where are we with that.

Joy Nurmi – suggested that Kristin O'Connor of Maryland Park and Planning can educate the board. She has been attending the sub-committee and ECCAB meetings.

Eileen Finegan – questioned Kristin O'Connor on the Route 29 Mobility Study (2012).

A discussion entailed between Kristin O'Connor, Eileen Finnegan and Board members.

New Business

Kim Bobola- motion was made that a letter to County Council President be drafted and sent supporting the passage of ZTA 09-03, Bill 24-09 and Bill 22-09.

A discussion between Board members followed pertaining to the addition of an expiration date on demolition permits of 90 days for Bill 24-09.

Chair Strassberger

[**November 4, 2009 - 2**] A motion was made to amend the letter to County Council President that ECCAB supports ZTA 09-03, Bill 22-09 and for Bill 24-09 to add a requirement for a demolition permit that includes an expiration date or requires that the holder of the permit quickly restore the structure to habitable condition. All members agreed in favor and the motion was passed.

Eric G. Luedtke – Distributed a proposed letter to Councilmember Nancy Navarro concerning the Gaithersburg West Master Plan. The East County Citizens Advisory Board are concerned about the likelihood that the Gaithersburg West Master Plan would concentrate most new job growth in west Gaithersburg. The letter encourages Council members to continue working to ensure balance in economic development for jobs and housing between the eastern and western portions of the county.

The Board members discussed this topic. Joy Nurmi suggested referring the matter to the Economic Development sub-committee and possible discussion at the December 2nd meeting. Mara Parker indicated, however, that the PHED Committee is scheduled to discuss this issue on November 12th and November 16th, and that it was possible that the PHED Committee will make a decision before the December ECCAB meeting. A detailed discussion followed and it was decided that members vote by show of hands as to whether they wanted to address this issue.

Chair Strassberger

[**November 4, 2009 - 3**] A motion was made to approve the letter and send the letter to Councilmember Nancy Navarro concerning the Gaithersburg West Master Plan on behalf of ECCAB. The motion passed with 8 members in favor and 5 members opposed.

Marva Deskins, Esq. – requested that we invite a representative from the Offices of Human Rights Commission to explain what types of complaints are addressed by their department.

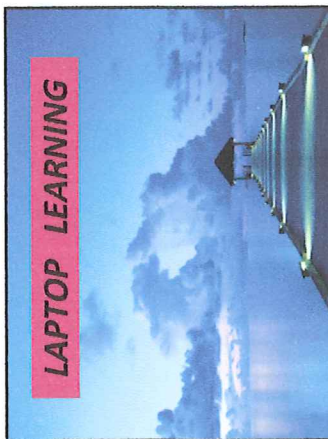
Joy Nurmi – suggested that the Office of Human Rights Commission can be requested to address the East County Citizens Advisory Board at the December 2009 or January 2010 meeting.

Announcements –

Stan Doore- distributed handouts on Laptop Learning which is recorded and attached as part of the minutes. He also distributed the Calverton Current November 2009 edition with the members.

Amjad M. Chaudhry- shared information and invites members to attend the Religious Founders Day – Sharing views of other faiths through meaningful dialogue on Sunday, November 8th; 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Masjid Baitur Rahman on Good Hope Road, Silver Spring in Maryland.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. **The next meeting of ECCAB is scheduled for December 2nd 2009.**



LAPTOP LEARNING

Education

PHILOSOPHY

- Learn Any Time
- in Any Place
- on Any Path
- at Any Pace

OLPCs IN ACTION



e-LEARNING is UNIQUE

UNIQUENESS

Practice with Immediate Feedback
Embedded Problems & Testing
Collaboration – Text Chat
Tailored Instruction – Dynamic Changes
Simulations & Games

PITFALLS

Lose Sight of Objective
Media Abuse

SOURCE: e-Learning & the Science of Instruction

KEY SUBJECTS

- Literacy - English
- Math & Statistics
- Physics & Other Sciences
- How Stuff Works

STATE of MAINE

Maine Learning Technology Initiative

Learning for the Entire Family

- Grades 7 – 12 one laptop per student
- Grades K – 12 All students by 2015
- Cost \$150/laptop/yr (3 year contract)
- Uses MAC Laptop Computers

STATE of MAINE

Maine Learning Technology Initiative

Learning for the Entire Family

- Grades 7 & 8 Maine RESULTS 2002 Present
Attendance Up, Detentions Down
Same Opportunity for All Students
Prepares Students for Work World

OLPCs

One Laptop Per Child

EXAMPLES

800,000 Uruguay (goal – entire country)
400,000 Australia – all remote primary schools
260,000 Peru
250,000 India (need - 350 million kids under age 14)
110,000 Rwanda
50,000 Mexico
20,000 Mongolia

“HOW STUFF WORKS”

Body & Hygiene	Weather & Environment
Food Preparation	Cell Phones, iPods, Etc.
Home & Garden	FM/AM & HD Radio
HVAC	Fiber Optics & Satellite
	Earth Sciences
Land, Air & Sea	Energy Sciences
Vehicle Propulsion	Space Sciences
Roads, Rails & Trails	Metric System (SI)